

**** Due by 5/14/13**

1. **Select a school or other program (after-school, recreational, religious) program that serves school-age child to visit and call the school/program office to make an appointment, for a minimum of 1 hour. Options: Visiting a family that has a school-age children or watching a Challenger Base-ball game next Sunday 4/28 @ 3 PM.at Harvey West (base-ball diamond closest to pool)**
(Explain that you are a Cabrillo College Child Development student and that you want to observe school age children both in the classroom and at recess or lunch, if at all possible. You won't interfere or get in the way - you just want to observe). You may call any school . **Please be sure you only observe, do not interfere or get in the way.**
2. **Read over the “observation questions” listed below before you go to the school.** It will help you to focus on the issues raised in your particular school.
3. When you arrive at the school, go to the front office and introduce yourself (you likely will be asked to sign in and wear a nametag). Once at the specific classroom, introduce yourself to the teacher and explain that you are learning about children and want to observe the classroom in general. Find a place to sit that is out of the way (they may tell you where to sit). **Any directions given to you by the teacher take precedence over this assignment! You are a guest.**
 - ❖ **Please remember that you represent the college on your visit.**
 - ❖ **Please dress and behave in such a way that we will be invited back.**
4. **Take general notes** (no running observations needed!). Be sure your notes start with: the date, time, number of children, grade level, and a list of adults. When your time is over, **be sure to thank the teacher and (if appropriate) the children. Always stop at the front desk and thank the office personnel** who made your arrangements. As soon as you are done, write a **short evaluation** in which you answer the following questions: (double space, size 12 font and one inch margins)

Information and Evaluation questions:

- ❖ **The name and location of the school you visited**
 - ❖ **What was it like for you to visit the school or program?**
 - ❖ **What memories did it conjure up for you?**
 - ❖ **How did you feel about this age of children? Why?**
 - ❖ **To what degree did you think the classroom utilized developmental principles that nurture growth in the four domains? Give examples for each area.**
5. **You will turn in your observation notes (no need to rewrite!) and the evaluation.** You will be part of a small group that will discuss one of the following questions and report to the class as a whole on the due date indicated in your syllabus.

Observation Questions:

You may see many of these things or only a few. Depending on what is going on, focus your attention on one or two of the following questions and come prepared to discuss in class.

- a. What differences did you see in behavior between the boys and the girls in the class/program? How did the teacher **reinforce or challenge** gender role stereotypes.
- b. What did you see in the classroom that **supported or interfered** with the children developing a sense of industry or inferiority?
- c. What indicators did you see about the children's sense of self-identity, social identity, and self-esteem? How did the adults **support or injure** the children in this arena?
- d. How did these children feel about other children?
- e. What did you see that indicated how these children think about good and bad, right and wrong, justice and unfairness, reward and punishment? How did the adults influence the children regarding these issues of moral development?
- f. What were the children *supposed to* be learning? What were they *actually* learning? What could you see about differences between children in terms of their learning styles, skills, or strategies?

School-Age Visit Score Sheet

Student Name: _____

Observation notes:

- ❖ Date/Time
- ❖ Number of children
- ❖ Grade level (approximately if observing a program)
- ❖ List of adults (if known)
- ❖ Observation notes for 1 hours
(Describing what you see, hear, notice and think)

Subtotal _____/20

Evaluation:

- ❖ The name and location of the school /program you visited, name of teacher/coach (if applicable)
- ❖ What was it like for you to visit the school/program?
- ❖ What memories did it conjure up for you?
- ❖ How did you feel about this age of children? Why?
- ❖ To what degree did you think the classroom utilized developmental principles?

Subtotal _____/25

Total _____/45

Percentage based on 45 points

Notes: